

Thus, claim 9 should have been grouped with the claims of Group II according to the Examiner's classification. Accordingly, it is requested that this claim be examined as elected above.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 7/17/01

By: 

Deborah S. Gladstein
Registration No. 43,636

700 11th Street, N.W., Ste. 500
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 434-1500